



## Beltsville Community Cats Spay/Neuter Project

Project #

22-7090

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County: Prince George's County

Number of Cats Spayed: 47

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 58

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$5,900.00

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

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### Project Synopsis:

In our grant application to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), BCC proposed to use project funds to purchase 3 traps and to spay and neuter 100 cats in the 20705 Zip Code area (Beltsville, MD). When the proposal was not fully funded, MDA reduced the number of cats to be spayed and neutered to 80 cats.



Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



## **Project Description:**

BCC collected information received from residents/business representatives in Beltsville calling for assistance with trapping/sterilizing feral cats. This information was supplemented with data from PG Animal Services Division (ASD) and information from BCC volunteers who feed about 180 cats living in feral colonies at 23 commercial/industrial sites throughout Beltsville. These colonies do not have caretakers other than our volunteers. The daily presence of BCC volunteers at these colony sites allows us to closely monitor for the appearance of any unaltered cats. When unaltered cats are sighted, BCC's trapping team is notified immediately. By combining the information gathered from residents and businesses in Beltsville, PG ASD, and BCC volunteers with information from BCC's previous experience in conducting trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) activities in Beltsville, BCC's trapping team was deployed to plan, coordinate, and conduct trapping events in areas identified for targeted trapping. When possible, BCC prioritizes areas where larger populations of feral cats reside. Residents/businesses calling about 1 to 5 feral cats are handled based on the availability of vet appointments.

## **Summary of Approach:**

BCC used information from several sources (PG Animal Services Division, Beltsville residents and businesses, and BCC volunteers) to identify areas for targeted trapping. Three such areas were North Creek, Beltsville Heights, and Newport Town. BCC volunteers were deployed to each trapping site to meet with caregivers, get signed "Permission to Enter Property" forms, and assess the trapping situation. Vet appointments were secured, and the caregivers were asked to withhold food prior to the trapping day. Trapped cats were covered and recorded prior to being transported to be held overnight prior to surgery. The next day, the cats were transported to the vet. After surgery, the cats were held overnight again and released to field the next day. Between larger trapping events, BCC worked with residents/businesses to TNVR smaller numbers of feral cats. When possible, BCC volunteers engaged caregivers to assist with the trapping, particularly to monitor the traps once they were set.

## **Accomplishments:**

BCC met and exceeded the objectives of our MDA 22-7090 Grant. BCC spayed and neutered 105 cats (47 females and 58 males), 25 more than stated in the revised grant objectives. In terms of targeted trapping, BCC altered 7 additional cats in North Creek (making a total of 79 cats to date) and 21 additional cats in Beltsville Heights (making a total of 175 cats to date). Although we did not alter any additional cats in Newport Town, we identified a colony living across the street from Newport Town where we altered a total of 15 cats. BCC also identified new sites for targeted trapping, e.g., Bear Creek Terrace where we altered 18 cats and a business on the corner of Muirkirk Rd. and Conway Rd., where we altered 33 cats. Some of these cats were altered using other funding sources since our MDA funding ran out in June 2022. BCC also responded to requests from numerous Beltsville residents with small numbers of feral cats that needed to be altered.



## Lessons Learned:

To address North Creek's ban on soliciting, BCC's Treasurer joined the Homeowners' Association Board which provided easy access to residents and the Property Manager to discuss TNVR and to identify colony caregivers. BCC also recruited 2 residents to serve as Neighborhood Monitors in North Creek. BCC learned that hard setting traps and having caregivers feed in the traps for 2-3 days prior to trapping produces significant results. On numerous occasions, we were able to trap 8-12 cats in less than an hour. BCC learned that the daily monitoring of our managed colonies provided immediate access to information on unaltered cats. At one site, 9 unaltered cats were identified using this strategy. BCC expanded this model by recruiting residents at targeted trapping sites to serve as "Neighborhood Monitors". This model is very effective in identifying when house cats or litters of kittens are dumped at sites where known colonies are fed and when BCC volunteers do not trap 100% of a colony.

## For More Information Contact:

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